

Applying Acting Strategies to Music Learning and Song Interpretation

As Sweet Adelines, we are not just singers...we are also actors when we're on stage! So why not use some actors' strategies to learn (and connect to) your music?

For Learning Music...

To memorize new lyrics (or lyrics with slight variations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write out your lyrics on a separate page. Do this in small segments, or for the entire song. (The physical act of writing out the lyrics helps to commit the words to memory!) Try this while referring to sheet music, then from memory!
To learn the artistic nuances of your music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Mark up</u> your lyrics with the artistic choices for your singing. Create a series of symbols to represent specific elements in your singing of this song, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planned breaths, Dynamic variations, Tuning, Connecting words / syllables, Emphasis points, etc.

For Song Interpretation...

To understand the character through your lyrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read your lyrics as though they are a monologue. Ask yourself some character development questions... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who is this character? ○ What does this character <u>want / need</u>? (*Objective!) ○ What are this character's <u>Obstacles</u> (internal or external)? ○ What Tactics could they use to achieve their want / need? <p><i>**developed by Konstantin Stanislavski. (Source: <u>Drama Works</u>, Irvine/Tirone/Ferguson/Mason: Emond Montgomery Publications, Toronto ON, 2013.)</i></p>
To understand changes in this character during the song	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divide your song lyrics into 'Beats/Units'** (which are the moments where the character's Objective or Tactic changes). Speak and/ or sing these lyrics in a way that shows the new Objective or Tactic. <p><i>**developed by Konstantin Stanislavski. (Source: <u>Drama Works</u>, Irvine/Tirone/Ferguson/Mason: Emond Montgomery Publications, Toronto ON, 2013.)</i></p>
To find the emotional and dynamic highs and lows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the potential emotional range in your lyrics / music by experimenting with various levels of intensity and volume as you speak your lyrics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IE. speak a segment of lyrics in 3 different ways: low/medium/high volumes, or 3 different purposes driving the words.

Presented By: Sue Marriott (Greater Kingston Chorus)